

# OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

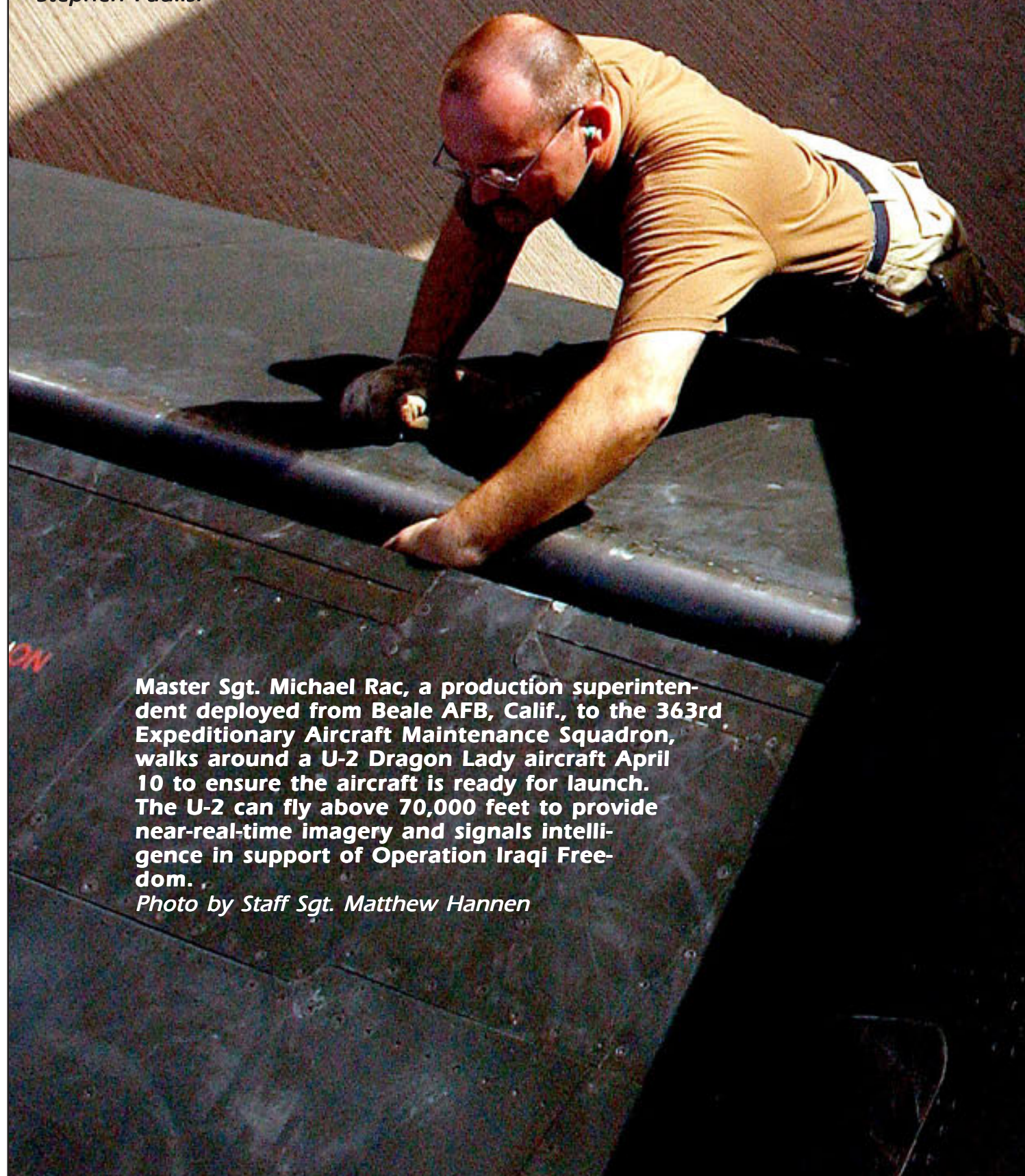
**RIGHT**—Airman Stephen Blevins, a security forces journeyman with the 86th Expeditionary Contingency Response Group, guards Bashur Airfield in northern Iraq on April 12.  
*Photo by Tech Sgt. Stephen Faulisi*



**RIGHT**—Staff Sgt. James Barr connects a power cart to an RQ-1 Predator to start the engine for a mission with the unmanned vehicle. Barr is a maintainer with the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron.  
*Photo by Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik*



Master Sgt. Michael Rac, a production superintendent deployed from Beale AFB, Calif., to the 363rd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, walks around a U-2 Dragon Lady aircraft April 10 to ensure the aircraft is ready for launch. The U-2 can fly above 70,000 feet to provide near-real-time imagery and signals intelligence in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.  
*Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Hannen*



An F-117 Nighthawk and F-15E Strike Eagles launch from a deployed location April 14. The 8th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and its F-117s are returning home to Holloman AFB, after supporting the war in Iraq.  
*Photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick C. Goode*



**ABOVE**—Special operations soldiers patrol through west Baghdad to provide security for a local hospital.  
*Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock*

**LEFT**—Staff Sgt. Matthew Woodcock from McGuire AFB, N.J., secures a forklift onto a C-130 Hercules at Baghdad International Airport on April 11. Woodcock is part of a team assessing the airport's ability to handle larger cargo aircraft.  
*Photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby*



**LEFT**—Airmen of the 786th Security Forces Squadron move their tent to a new spot at Bashur Airfield in northern Iraq. The 86th Expeditionary Contingency Response Group set up camp around the airfield when it landed there March 26. The group's mission is to land at a bare base and set up airfield operations.  
*Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed*

